

Reproducibility in Data Preprocessing: An Evaluation of Open Source Tools

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Introduction

Motivation Purpose of this Work

- Reproducibility vital and underpins trust in science
 - Ongoing and enhanced focus across different scientific domains and industries [Soh23]
 - Prevalence of data work as a major challenge [Fei+20]
- Data Preprocessing make data suitable for analysis
 - foundation for data mining [AKV19], data science projects [ATSO17], data analysis [Fam+97], machine learning
 - impacts any derived conclusions, model quality, and model fairness [GZ19] [BR21]
- Open Source "The bigger the problem, the more developers are drawn, like magnets, to work on it" [BCG21]
 - Integral to business
 - benefits reproducibility by fostering trust, enabling collaborative work, and emphasizing the value of software and data as artifacts for learning and sharing knowledge [Bar22]

Introduction

Motivation

Purpose of this Work

Investigated research questions:

RQ1: What are the requirements for reproducible data preprocessing?

RQ2: What are promising open-source tools to enable reproducible data preprocessing?

RQ3: To what extent do existing open-source tools support reproducible data preprocessing?

Fundamentals

Reproducibility

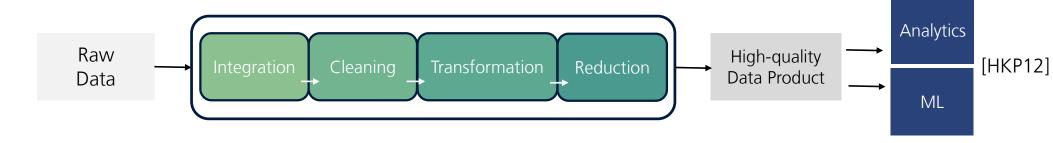
Data Preprocessing

- Non-conform standard across different scientific domains [GFI16]
- Often adapted according to a specific context [GK18]
- The Association for Computing Machinery proposes the following terminology[Noab]:
 - **Repeatability**: Same team, same experimental setup
 - "a researcher can reliably repeat her own computation"
 - Reproducibility: Different team, same experimental setup
 - "an independent group can obtain the same result using the author's own artifacts"
 - Replicability: Different team, different experimental setup
 - "independent group can obtain the same result using artifacts which they develop completely independently."

Fundamentals



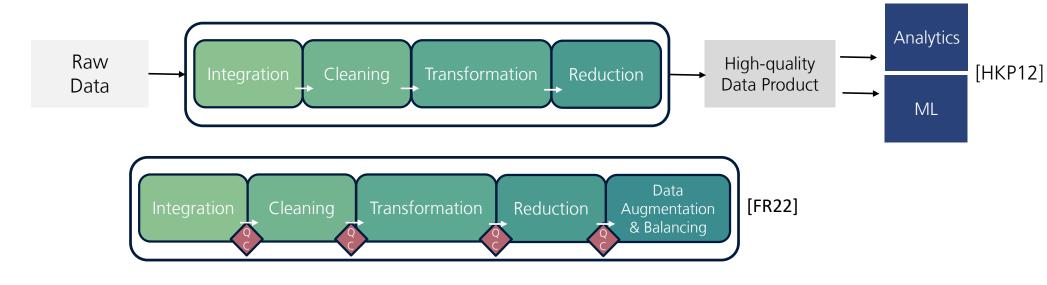
Data preprocessing comprises all necessary concepts and methods to transform raw data to a high-quality data product that satisfies the requirements for further usage [HKP12].



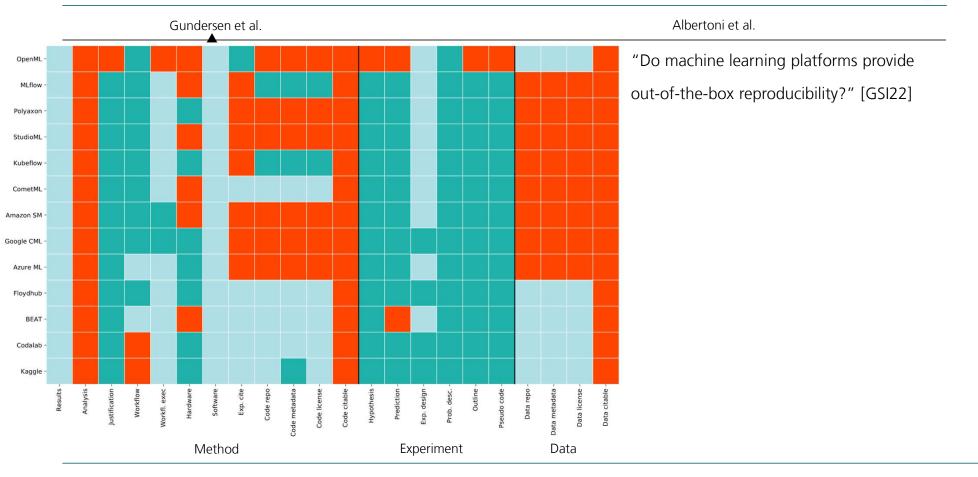
Fundamentals



Data preprocessing comprises all necessary concepts and methods to transform raw data to a high-quality data product that satisfies the requirements for further usage [HKP12].

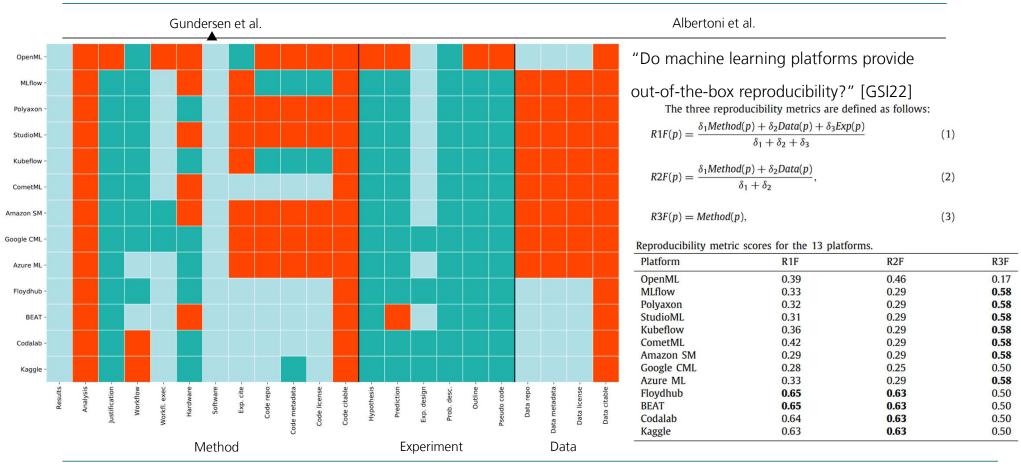


Related Work



Folie 8 Reproducibility in Data Preprocessing: An Evaluation of Open Source Tools

Related Work



Folie 9 Reproducibility in Data Preprocessing: An Evaluation of Open Source Tools

Related Work

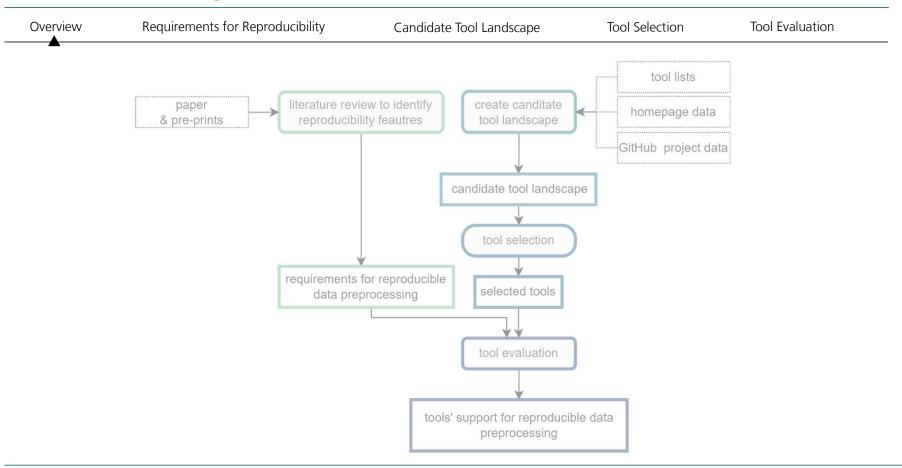
Gundersen et al.

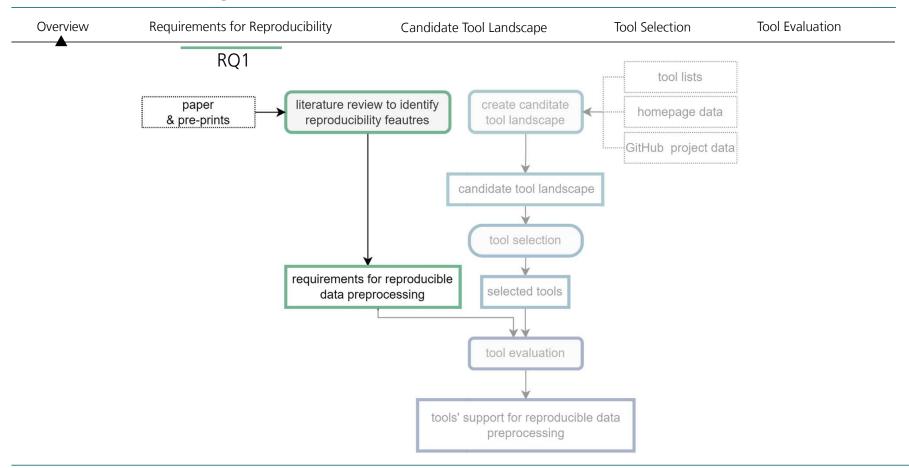
Feature	Recommendation	Where	Source guideline
Data repository	Share data in a community repository or	P	Gundersen et al. [55] Pineau's checklist v2 [114]
Data distribution	the simulation environment How will the dataset will be distributed	P,M	IJCAI 22 Guideline [140] Datasheets [43]
Data appendix	(e.g., tarball on website, API, GitHub)? All novel datasets introduced in this paper are included in a data appendix	S	IJCAI 22 Guideline [140]
Dataset from literature	All datasets drawn from the existing liter- ature (potentially including authors' own previously published work) are publicly available	P,S,M	IJCAI 22 Guideline [140]
Cite Data	All datasets drawn from the existing liter- ature (potentially including authors' own previously published work) are accompa- nied by appropriate citations	P,S,M	IJCAI 22 Guideline [140]
Data citeable	Generate DOI or PURL.	P.M	Gundersen et al. [55]
Data relevant statistic	For all datasets used, The relevant statis- tics, such as number of examples	P,S,M	Datasheets [43] Pineau's checklist v2 [114]
Unavailable Dataset Description	All datasets that are not publicly avail- able (especially proprietary datasets) are described in detail	S	IJCAI 22 Guideline [140]
Data collection, annotation and quality	For all datasets used, For new data col- lected, a complete description of the data collection process, such as instructions to annotators and methods for quality con- trol	P,S,M	Pineau's checklist v2 [114] Datasheets [43]
Train/validation/test splits.	For all datasets used, The details of train/validation/test splits.	P,M	Pineau's checklist v2 [114]
Excluded data	For all datasets used, An explanation of any data that were excluded, and all pre-	P,S,M	Pineau's checklist v2 [114]
Preprocessing cleaning and labelling	processing steps. Was any preprocessing/cleaning/labeling of the data done (e.g., discretization or bucketing, tokenization, part-of-speech tagging, SIFT feature extraction, removal of instances, processing of missing val-	P,S,M	Datasheets [43]
Raw data	ues)? If so, please provide a description. Was the "raw" data saved in addition to the preprocessed/cleaned/labeled data (e.g., to support unanticipated future uses)? If so, please provide a link or other access point to the "raw" data.	P,S,M	Datasheets [43]
Preprocessing software	Is the software used to prepro- cess/clean/label the instances available? If so, please provide a link or other access point.	P,S,M	Datasheets [43]
Data metadata	Include basic metadata describing the data.	P,M	Gundersen et al. [55]
Dataset contacts	How can the owner/curator/manager of the dataset be contacted (e.g., email ad- dress)?	P,M	Datasheets [43]
Data license, Intelectual property, term of use	Give the data a license including Intelec- tual property and use terms or regulatory restrictions	P,M	Gundersen et al. [55] Datasheets [43]

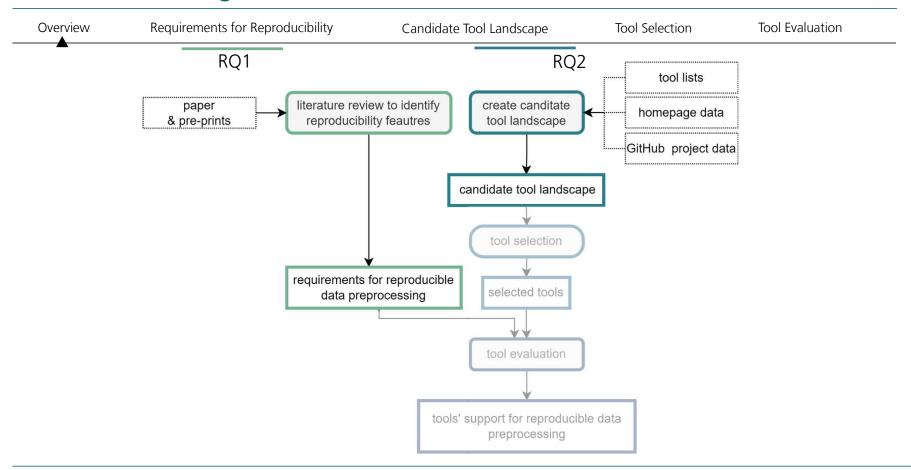
Albertoni et al.

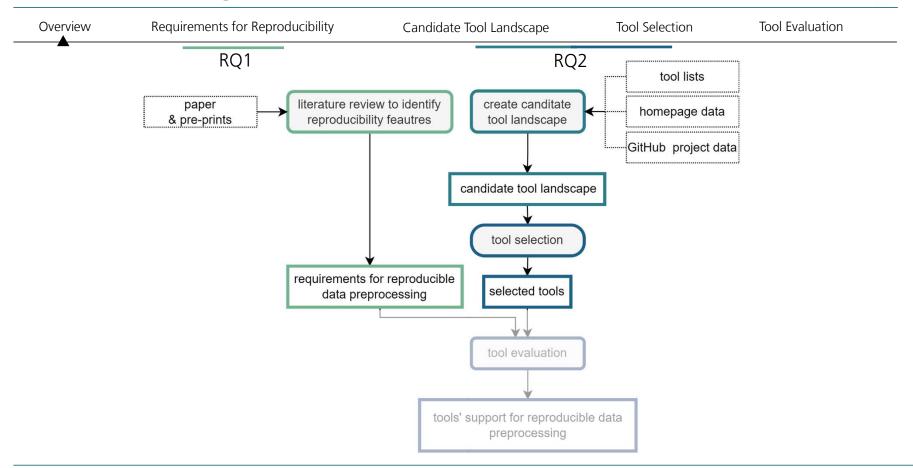
"Reproducibility of Machine Learning:

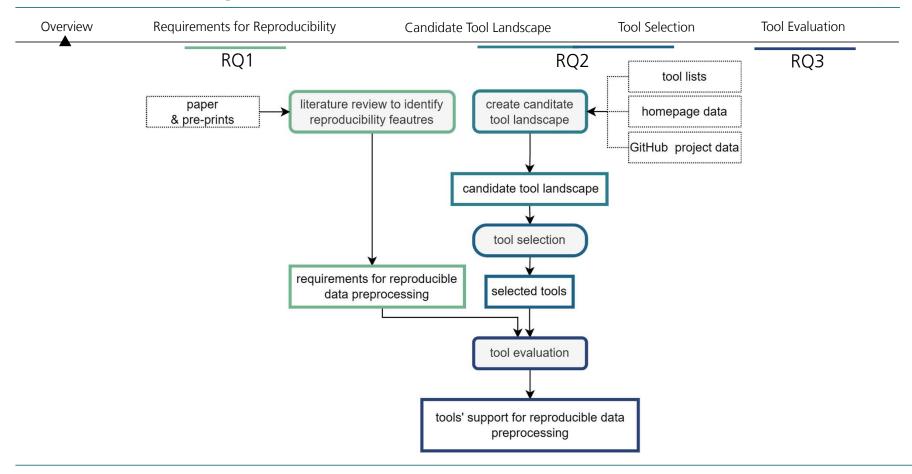
Terminology, Recommendations and Open Issues" [Alb+23].

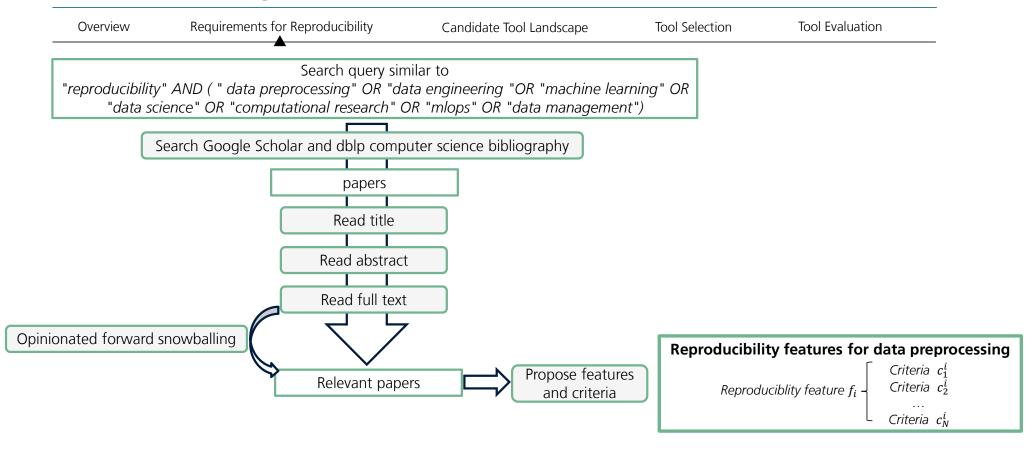












Overview	Requirements for Reproducibility	Candidate Tool Landscape	Tool Selection	Tool Evaluation	
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Approach

Use community-maintained lists of tools in the AI and data domain to create a candidate tool landscape, and integrate GitHub and homepage data.

Overview

Requirements for Reproducibility

Candidate Tool Landscape

Tool Selection

Tool Evaluation

Raw Data Sources

Existing Workflow Systems - https://s.apache.org/existing-workflow-systems

- incomplete list of computational analysis workflow systems
- Information per tool:
 - Tool name
 - Description (optional)
 - One or more Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) to the tool homepage, repository, or publication
- File format:
 - reStructuredText

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility

Candidate Tool Landscape

Tool Selection

Tool Evaluation

Raw Data Sources

Existing Workflow Systems - https://s.apache.org/existing-workflow-systems

- Arvados CWL-based distributed computing platform for data analysis on massive data sets. https://arvados.org/ https://github.com/arvados/arvados
- 2. Apache Taverna http://www.taverna.org.uk/ https://taverna.incubator.apache.org/
- 3. Galaxy http://galaxyproject.org/
- 4. SHIWA https://www.shiwa-workflow.eu/
- 5. Apache Oozie https://oozie.apache.org/
- 6. DNANexus https://wiki.dnanexus.com/API-Specification-v1.0.0/IO-and-Run-Specifications https://wiki.dnanexus.com/API-Specification-v1.0.0/Workflows-and-Analyses

Overview

Requirements for Reproducibility

Candidate Tool Landscape

Tool Selection

Tool Evaluation

Raw Data Sources

Linux Foundation AI and Data Landscape- https://landscape.lfai.foundation/

- Interactive tool overview in the AI and data domain.
- Landscape is dynamically generated based on a YAML file in the corresponding GitHub repository
- Relevant information per tool:
 - Tool name
 - Category and Subcategory
 - Homepage URL
 - Repository URL
- File format:
 - YAML

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

Raw Data Sources

Linux Foundation Al and Data Landscape https://landscape.lfai.foundation/

```
category:
subcategories:
  - subcategory:
   name: Education
      - item:
       name: DataPractices
       homepage_url: https://datapractices.org/
       project: incubating
       repo_url: https://github.com/datapractices/data-practices-site
       logo: datapractices.svg
       crunchbase: https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/lf-artificial-intelligence-foundation
      - item:
       name: OpenDS4All
       homepage_url: https://github.com/odpi/OpenDS4All
       project: incubating
       repo_url: https://github.com/odpi/OpenDS4All
       logo: opends4all.svg
       crunchbase: https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/lf-artificial-intelligence-foundation
  - subcategory:
   name: Lineage
   items:
      - item:
```

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

Raw Data Sources

Awesome Pipeline- https://github.com/pditommaso/awesome-pipeline

- Community-curated list focusing on pipeline toolkits
- Information per tool:
 - Tool name
 - Short description
 - Grouped via sections and subsections
 - URL either repository or homepage
- File format:
 - Markdown

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility

Candidate Tool Landscape

Tool Selection

Tool Evaluation

Raw Data Sources

Awesome Pipeline- https://github.com/pditommaso/awesome-pipeline

Pipeline frameworks & libraries

- ActionChain A workflow system for simple linear success/failure workflows.
- Adage Small package to describe workflows that are not completely known at definition time.
- AiiDA workflow manager with a strong focus on provenance, performance and extensibility.
- Airflow Python-based workflow system created by AirBnb.
- Anduril Component-based workflow framework for scientific data analysis.
- · Antha High-level language for biology.
- AWE Workflow and resource management system with CWL support.
- Balsam Python-based high throughput task and workflow engine.

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool S

Tool Selection

Tool Evaluation

Raw Data Sources

Awesome Data Engineering- https://github.com/igorbarinov/awesome-data-engineering

- Community-curated list focusing on data engineering tools
- Information per tool:
 - Tool name
 - Short description
 - Grouped via sections and subsections
 - URL either repository or homepage
- File format:
 - Markdown

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

Raw Data Sources

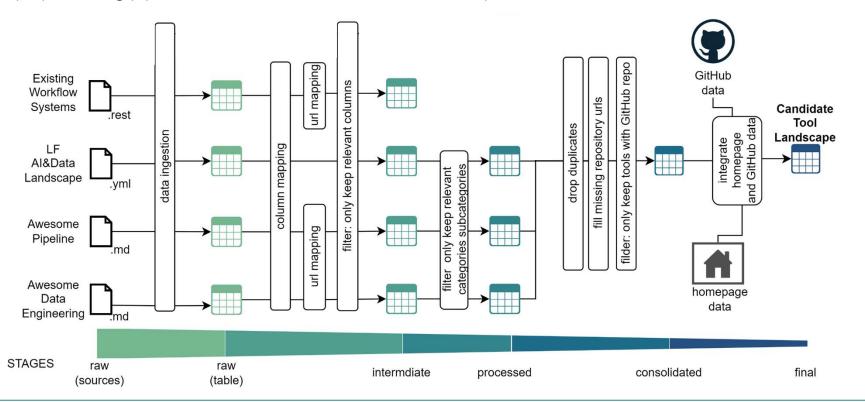
Awesome Data Engineering- https://github.com/igorbarinov/awesome-data-engineering

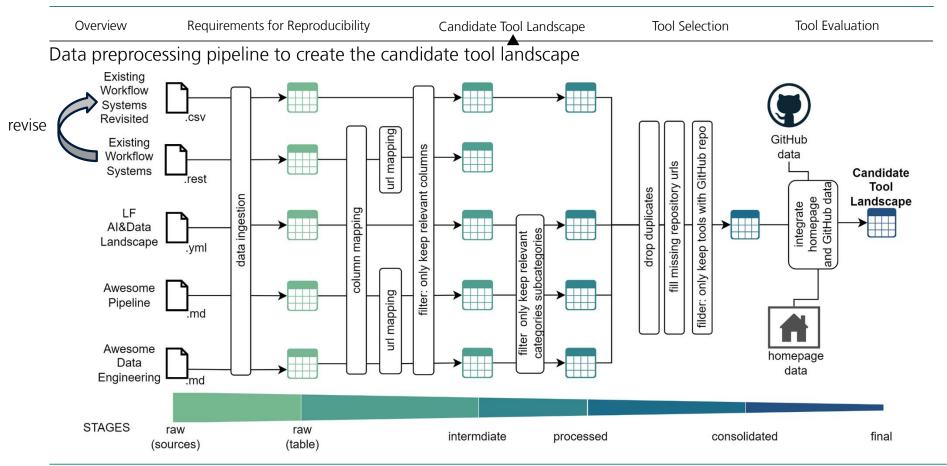
Workflow

- Luigi Luigi is a Python module that helps you build complex pipelines of batch jobs.
 - o CronQ An application cron-like system. Used w/Luige. Deprecated.
- Cascading Java based application development platform.
- · Airflow Airflow is a system to programmaticaly author, schedule and monitor data pipelines.
- Azkaban Azkaban is a batch workflow job scheduler created at LinkedIn to run Hadoop jobs. Azkaban resolves
 the ordering through job dependencies and provides an easy to use web user interface to maintain and track
 your workflows.
- Oozie Oozie is a workflow scheduler system to manage Apache Hadoop jobs
- Pinball DAG based workflow manager. Job flows are defined programmatically in Python. Support output passing between jobs.

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

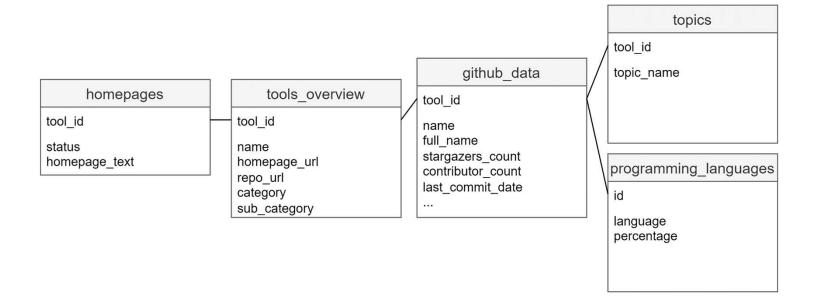
Data preprocessing pipeline to create the candidate tool landscape

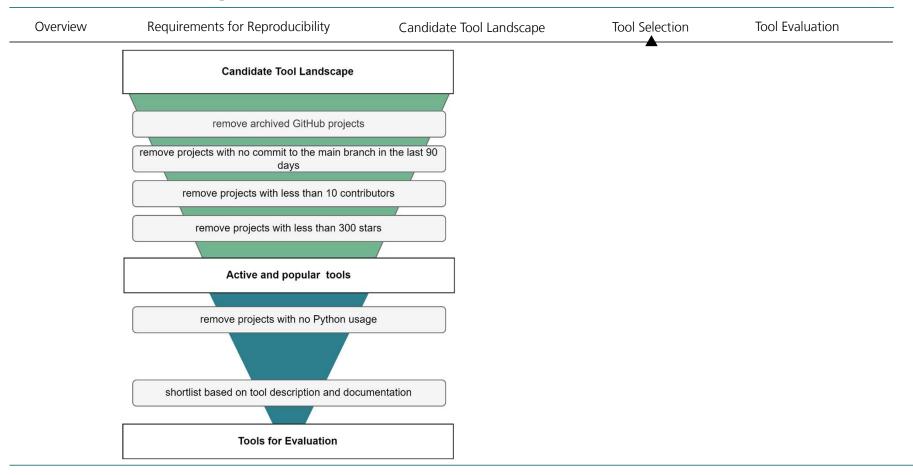




Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

- Conceptual Data Model





Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

1. Search the documentation and homepage for each selected tool to identify the support for each criterion of a reproducibility feature by assigning the support level.

Overview	Requirements for Reproducibility	Candidate Tool Landscape	Tool Selection	Tool Evaluation	

- 1. Search the documentation and homepage for each selected tool to identify the support for each criterion of a reproducibility feature by assigning the support level.
 - 1. unsupported The tool does not support the criterion of a reproducibility feature.
 - 2. standard solution The tool does not support the criterion of a reproducibility feature. However, this gap can be closed by a solution that the community sees as a default. For example, GitHub for public code hosting
 - 3. enterprise support The tool supports the criterion of a reproducibility feature in the enterprise version, but the functionality is not available in the open-source version.
 - 4. integration The tool proves an integration with a third-party solution, which supports the criterion of a reproducibility feature.
 - 5. partially The tool partially supports the criterion of a reproducibility feature.
 - 6. full The tool partially supports the criterion of a reproducibility feature.

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

- 1. Search the documentation and homepage for each selected tool to identify the support for each criterion of a reproducibility feature by assigning the support level.
- 2. Quantify the support for a reproducibility feature

Overview	Requirements for Reproducibility	Candidate Tool Landscape	Tool Selection	Tool Evaluation	

- 1. Search the documentation and homepage for each selected tool to identify the support for each criterion of a reproducibility feature by assigning the support level.
- 2. Quantify the support for a reproducibility feature
 - 1. Assign a numeric value to each support level
 - 1. unsupported 0
 - 2. standard solution 0
 - 3. enterprise support 0
 - 4. integration 1
 - 5. partially 0
 - 6. full

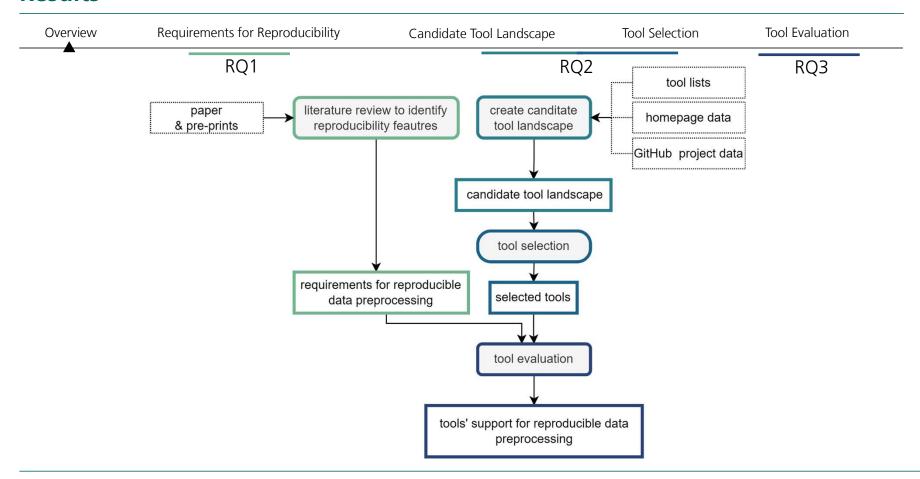
Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

- 1. Search the documentation and homepage for each selected tool to identify the support for each criterion of a reproducibility feature by assigning the support level.
- 2. Quantify the support for a reproducibility feature
 - 1. Assign a numeric value to each support level
 - 2. Calculate mean of all criteria values for a feature

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

- 1. Search the documentation and homepage for each selected tool to identify the support for each criterion of a reproducibility feature by assigning the support level.
- 2. Quantify the support for a reproducibility feature
 - 1. Assign a numeric value to each support level
 - 2. Calculate mean of all criteria values for a feature
- 3. Quantify the overall support for reproducible data preprocessing for each tool
 - 1. Calculate the mean of all reproducibility feature scores

Results



Overview		Requirements for Reproducibility	Candidate Tool Landscape	Tool Selection	Tool Evaluation						
Proposed	repr	oducibility features for data	preprocessing								
eature	Nr of criteria	Description									
Code Sharing	3	Code is shared in a public code repository, vers	sioned, and is citable.								
Code Documentation	4	Code is documented and facilitated by a defau	ılt structure and notebooks. User guides and s	tatic code analysis are supporte	ed.						
Code License	2	A license is added to the project.									
Code Review	2	A Code review process is described or integrate	ode review process is described or integrated.								
Norkflow	4	Data preprocessing functions and configurations are abstracted in a workflow representation, such that the workflow is maintainable, portable, scalable, and ocumented.									
Software and Code Dependencies	3	Software and code dependencies are specified	in a standardized way using package manage	er and container.							
Operating System	1	Operating System is specified as a part of a cor	ntainer image.								
Cernel	1	A virtual machine image can be created.									
Hardware	3	The hardware requirements are documented or	or specified declarative or as infrastructure as o	code.							
SWE best practices	2	Testing and continuous integration are support	ted.								
Data Sharing	3	Data is in a cloud storage, public repository, an	nd is citable.								
Data Documentation	3	Data is described in a basic way, annotated, or	using a meta data standard.								
Data License	2	A license is added to the data.									
Data Quality	3	Data quality gates and measures are supported	d, via statistics, typing, schemas, and advance	d data quality assessments.							
Data Provenance	5	Data provenance is captured code agnostic, ba Analysis of provenance data is supported.	ised on workflow implementation. Metadata	is captured and stored in metad	lata management.						
Data Versioning	3	Data is versioned throughout the data lifecycle.									

Overview	Requirements for Reproducibility	Candidate Tool Landscape	Tool Selection	Tool Evaluation
	A			

Proposed reproducibility features and criteria for data preprocessing

Feature	Criteria	Feature	Criteria
	Repository		Cloud Storage
Code Sharing	Version control	Data Sharing	Repository
o .	Citable		Citable
	Structure		Described
Code Documentation	Notebook	Data Documentation	Meta data
Code Documentation	User guide		Meta data standard
	Static code analysis	Data License	Stored
Code License	Added	Data License	Enforces
Code License	Enforced		Statistics
Code Review	Process	Data Quality	Typing/Schema
Code Review	Integration	200 -	Quality
	Portable	.	Code agnostic
Workflow	Scalable		Implementable
WOIRHOW	Maintainable	Data Provenance	Metadata
	Metadata		Metadata managment
	Package managment		Analysis
Software and Code Dependencies	Container	-	Storage agnostic
	Captured	Data Versioning	Automation
Operating System	Container	O	Abstraciton
Kernel	VM image	CVITE D D	CI
	Documented	SWE Best Practices	Testing
Hardware	Hosted Service		22000.0
	IaC		

Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

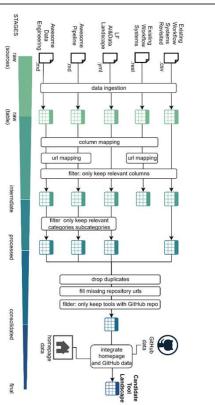
Number of tools for each data source and data preprocessing stage

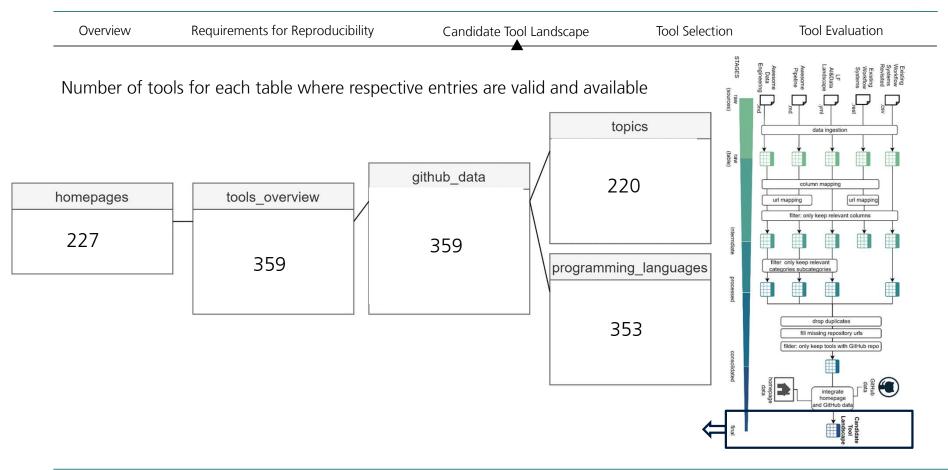
Stage	EWSR	LFADL	AP	ADE	Total
raw	335	428	205	185	1153
intermediate	335	428	205	185	1153
processed	263	57	165	45	530
consolidated	238	41	59	26	364
final	236	41	57	25	359

EWSR: Existing Workflow Systems Revisited LFADL: Linux Foundation Al and Data Landscape

AP: Awesome Pipeline

ADE: Awesome Data Engineering





Overview Requirements for Reproducibility Candidate Tool Landscape Tool Selection Tool Evaluation

Quality of the raw data sources with respect to provided URLs for the homepage, repository, and publication. The number of total and valid URLs (200 HTTP responses) is given for the URL columns in the format: nr of URLS (nr of valid URLs).

nr. of	EWSR	EWS	LFADL	AP	ADE
tools	335	335	428	205	185
homepage URLs	252 (229)	209 (186)	428 (406)	89 (77)	106 (104)
publication URLs	199 (191)	75 (70)	o (o)	o (o)	o (o)
repository URLs	263 (259)	158 (155)	340 (340)	116 (115)	79 (77)

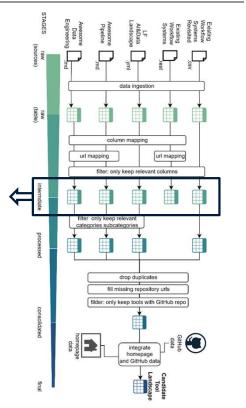
EWSR: Existing Workflow Systems Revisited

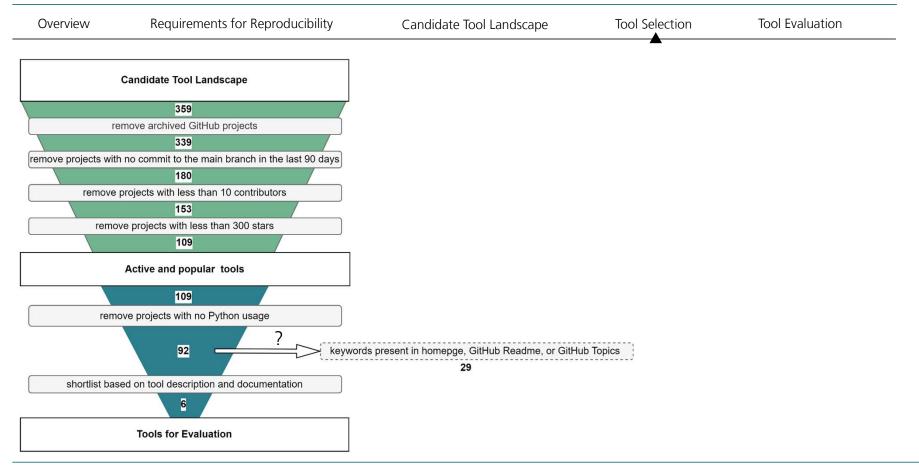
EWS: Existing Workflow Systems

LFADL: Linux Foundation Al and Data Landscape

AP: Awesome Pipeline

ADE: Awesome Data Engineering



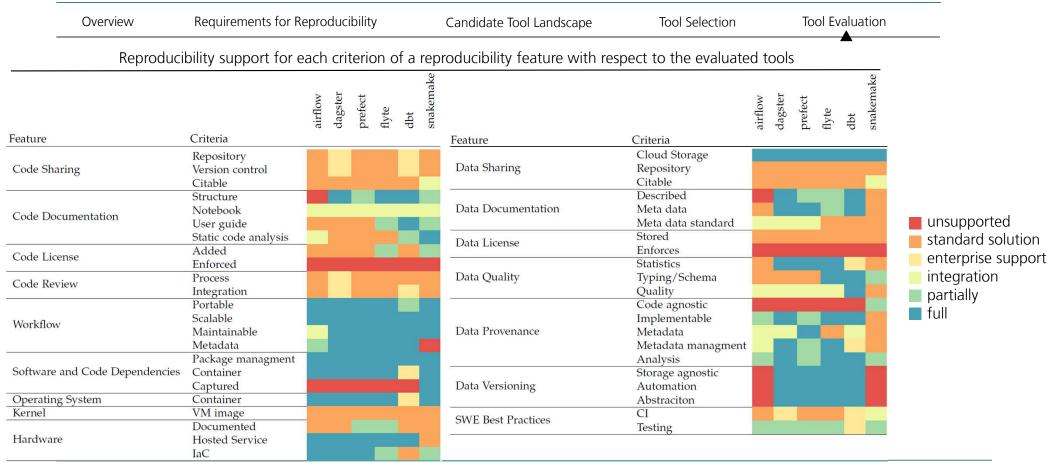


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Overview	Requirements for Reproducibility	Candidate Tool Landscape	Tool Selection		Too	ol Evalu	uation		
			Keywords ir	the '	"repro	ducib	ilitv" ι	vord f	– amily o
Candidate Tool Landscape			on the hom						
,	Candidate 1001 Landscape		<u>-</u>		idme		nepage		ppics
	359		name	available	keyword	available	keyword	available	keyword
rei	move archived GitHub projects		mlflow	- /	-		7		
	339		dvc	<i>✓</i>	V	~	~	~	<i>\</i>
move projects with	no commit to the main branch in the last 90 days		kedro	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	
Thove projects with			metaflow	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓
	180		enso	✓	✓	\	✓	~	-
remove p	projects with less than 10 contributors		pachyderm BentoML	<i>'</i>	-	·	<i>y</i>	<i>'</i>	
	153		clearml	·	✓	·	·	/	-
remov	ve projects with less than 300 stars		kestra	✓	7.5	✓	✓	✓	
1011101	109		flyte	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
	109		lakeFS	✓	✓	20	20	✓	-
	Active and namilar tools	joblib ✓ - ✓ ✓	V						
	Active and popular tools		zenml Ax	4	_	·	·	·	-
\ \ \	109		nextflow	·	√	1	✓	1	✓
	109		snakemake	✓	1	✓	✓	1	✓
remo	ove projects with no Python usage		marquez	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	-
	V		galaxy	✓	(5)	✓	✓	✓	
	X		cromwell	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
	92 keyword	ds present in homepge, GitHub Readme, or GitHub Topic	S nipype	✓	V	✓	✓	✓	-
		29	wdl	✓	✓	✓	50	✓	✓
1 10 11	1 1 1 1 2 2 1 1 1 2 2		ck	V	~	✓	✓	✓	✓
snortiist base	ed on tool description and documentation		covalent	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-
	6		datalad	✓	✓	✓	✓	V	-
			redun	✓	✓	✓	140	✓	-
			jug	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
	Tools for Evaluation		aiida-core	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
			arvados	V	√	V	✓	V	-
			cwltool	✓	120	V	✓	V	-

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Overview	Requirements for Reproducibility		Candidate Tool Landscape	Tool Evaluat	ion	
Selected	tools for evaluation	on with respect	to reproducible data preprod	cessing		
Tool	Category	Description			Stars	Contributors
Airflow	Data pipelines	A platform to p	rogrammatically author, schedule	e, and monitor workflows.	30866	418
Prefect	Data pipelines		kflow orchestration tool empowers	ering developers to build,	12278	170
Dagster	Data pipelines	An orchestration observation of c	n platform for the development, lata assets.	production, and	7840	293
dbt	Data warehouse transformation workflows		a analysts and engineers to trans hat software engineers use to b	9	7230	256
Flyte	Data pipelines		xible workflow orchestration planal. and analytics stacks.	tform that seamlessly	3561	121
Snakemake	Bioinformatic workflows		workflow management system d scalable data analyses.	is a tool to create	1749	267



Folie 45 Reproducibility in Data Preprocessing: An Evaluation of Open Source Tools

erview	Requirements for Reprod	ucibility Cand	idate To	ool La	ndsca	ipe		Tool S	Selection	Tool Evaluation
	Repro	oducibility metric for e	ach fe	eatur	e and	d too				
		,	airflow	dagster	prefect	flyte	dbt	snakemake		
	Featur	e								
	Code S	, and a second s	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3		
	Code I	Documentation	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.0		
	Code I	License	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5		
	Code I	57 1/5/5/10	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Workfl	ow	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8		$0.0 \le s_f < 0.3$
		re and Code Dependencies	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	1.0		$0.3 \le s_f \le 0.7$
	OS		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0		,
	Kernel		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		$0.7 < s_f \le 1.0$
	Hardw		0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.3		·
	Data S		0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7		
		Ocumentation	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.0		
	Data L		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Data Q		0.3	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.3		
	Data P	rovenance	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.4		
		ersioning	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0		
	SWE B	est Practices	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.0		
	Tool R	eproducibility Support	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5		

Summary and Outlook

Summary Outlook

- 16 features and respective criteria were proposed to help categorize the support for reproducible data preprocessing
- A candidate tool landscape in the AI and data domain was created to help identify relevant open-source tools in an iterative selection process
- A evaluation framework was designed, and six open-source tools were analyzed concerning their support for reproducible data preprocessing. None of them provides out-of-the-boc reproducibility.

Summary and Outlook

Summary Outlook

- Further formalize the reproducibility features and criteria to facilitate identifying the support level by a tool
- Describe the default solution for a specific feature to indicate that it has not to be reinvented by a tool
- Evaluate the available integrations
- Outline a tool stack, which could further help to support reproducible data preprocessing



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